

CEDAR

EUROPEAN MUSLIM PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

CONNECTING EUROPEAN DYNAMIC ACHIEVERS & ROLE-MODELS

Seeding Europe's First Muslim Professionals' Network



SALZBURG GLOBAL SEMINAR

INSTITUTE *for*
STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

The CEDAR Press Release

www.theCEDARnetwork.com

Over forty leading Muslim professionals came together in Salzburg to design and launch the first pan-European Muslim Professional's Network aimed at seeding concrete projects and fostering a culture of achievement and leadership amongst Europe's diverse Muslim communities. CEDAR will facilitate a Role Model and Mentoring Service, an on and off-line information, jobs and opportunities 'market' and a business and social enterprise 'incubator'. CEDAR members developed innovative responses to critical issues via new projects and business concepts in the information technology, media, women's empowerment and political spheres respectively. Examples include a Gaming proposal, a web-based platform to promote political participation and a Muslim Film and Media Festival. CEDAR events will be held over the coming year to highlight these projects and the dynamic European Muslims driving them.

The initiative has been facilitated by the London-based [Institute for Strategic Dialogue](#) (ISD) and the [Salzburg Global Seminar](#).

An independent Board from across Europe has been established and is responsible for the management of CEDAR. Board members are:

Rooful Ali , UK (Chairman)	Farid Hafez , Austria
Muddassar Ahmed , UK	Farzana Hakim , UK
Parvin Ali , UK	Imane Karich , Belgium
Zahed Amanullah , US/UK	Ahmed Larouz , Netherlands
Famile Arslan , Netherlands	Yahya Pallavicini , Italy
Siddik Bakir , Germany	Ashar Saeed , Sweden
Zoubeir Ben Terdey , France	Asim Siddiqui , UK
Emmanuel-Yamin Dubuc , France	Muhammad Escudero Uribe , Spain

(The Board are available as media spokespeople for CEDAR)

Advisory Board Members to date have included **Cherie Blair; QC**, Matrix Chambers, UK; **Peter Kellner**; President, YouGov, UK; **Gwyneth Williams**, Director of English Networks & News for BBC World Service, UK; **Ahmed Aboutaleb**, State Secretary of Social Affairs and Employment, Netherlands

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CEDAR Mission

To generate a culture of success and leadership amongst Europe's diverse Muslim communities.

CEDAR Strategic Objectives

1. **To connect and harness the aggregate potential of disparate Muslim individuals and networks across Europe via the establishment of an on-line platform and person-to-person network.** The first step is to expand the existing Salzburg network through a member referral system (each new membership needs to be supported by two existing members). The group will also establish a searchable online directory of its members and their professional assets, identify prominent Muslim and non-Muslim figures to join the Advisory Board to bring attention to the initiative and establish contact with potential **“Network partners”** consisting of corporations and philanthropic organisations that can support the network financially and through in-kind contributions in return for access to the networks resources (databases of contacts etc.) and publicity. The group aims to hold strategic events across Europe to ensure person-to-person networking is facilitated and to grow the network in key countries.
2. **To foster professional aspiration and achievement amongst marginalised communities and create a more diversified picture of European Muslims in the mainstream media by establishing a ‘Role Model and Media Speakers’ Bureau’ and a ‘Mentoring and Internship Scheme’.** The group will identify additional inspiring figures across diverse sectors to be role models, speakers and mentors. They will establish contact with beneficiary communities (e.g. schools, universities, mosques) in order to promote positive community and political engagement. They will also design a simple mentoring programme using examples of best practice (e.g. MOSAIC) and identify internship placements amongst members’ workplaces.
3. **To create an ‘information market place’ that fills the ‘knowledge gap’ that Muslim communities face in terms of accessing information about job and educational opportunities.** The aim is also for the Network to provide an ongoing **‘project incubation’ service** allowing members to search for partners and develop innovative joint business ventures and social enterprises (along the lines of the working groups in Salzburg). The Network will also try to identify investors and donors for such initiatives, including the longer term possibility of establishing an innovation/seeding fund. Information on events, jobs, funding and investment would be made available to network members on the web platform.